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September 21, 1999

**VIA FAX AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Comments on Draft EIS/EIR CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

Dear Mr. Snow:

My comments on the draft EIS/EIR are:

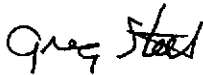
1. The CALFED program is comprised of various State and Federal agencies, and as such, is the "lead agency" for approval of the EIS/EIR. I would request that you include the name, title, and address of the specific individuals responsible for approval of the Final EIS/EIR. Who specifically, for example, at the California Resources Agency, will be responsible for signing-off on the document? Is it the Secretary of the Agency, a Deputy Director of the Agency, the Director of a subordinate department, or who? Would you be willing to do this?
2. Page 5.4.1 briefly addresses the adverse impacts of the Water Transfer Program including "increased groundwater pumping in areas where it previously has not occurred, reduced amount of water available for groundwater recharge, lower groundwater levels and higher pumping costs, degraded groundwater quality, and an increased dependence upon groundwater supplies in areas receiving the transferred water." Then, the following statement is flatly made: "Mitigation strategies are available to reduce the potentially significant adverse impacts to less-than-significant levels." While lists of potential general mitigation measures, including those on pages 5.4-48 and 5.4-49, are offered, there does not appear to be an analysis to support the statement that a specific set of measures, when implemented, would in fact reduce the adverse impacts to "less-than-significant levels". The question is: on what pages can it be substantiated that a specific set of measures will, in fact, reduce the adverse impacts to "less-than significant levels."?
3. I would like to add my concerns, which I have previously expressed directly to CALFED staff, and which I am sure that you are aware is a major concern in this part

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of California, relating to the potential adverse impacts (both to agriculture and domestic wells) of the transfer program. I recognize that this is a critical component for the CALFED program to work, but believe that the potential adverse impacts have not been adequately analyzed in the Draft EIS/EIR. The failure to adequately address this issue obviously has the potential of seriously harming domestic and agricultural users who are dependent upon groundwater. I will not discuss this issue further at this time, because CALFED staff are well aware of this concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to receiving CALFED staff's response to my comments in the Final EIS/EIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Steel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Greg Steel